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Clan Roster

All four clans have cats all different shapes, sizes, and colors! Every cat is special and unique in its own way. The cats listed here are from the mighty DuskClan!

LEADER

Redstar - Orange tabby tom with speckled ears and paws. He has bright amber eyes that shine with wisdom.

DEPUTY

Nightflare - a beautiful pitch black she-cat with white spots/ speckles and golden eyes.
Apprentice: Hawkpaw

MEDICINE CAT

Moonfrost - Milky white she-cat with black ear tips and paws. She has leafy green eyes and is very sweet.
Apprentice: Honeypaw

WARRIORS

Dawnbreaker - Russet she-cat with golden eyes.
Apprentice: Poppypaw

Tigerspirit - Handsome brown tabby tom with white paws and chest. He has bright ocean blue eyes and a fierce personally.
Apprentice: Shadowpaw

Twilightstorm - Silver she-cat with black ears and a sliver and black striped tail. Bright blue eyes.

Spottedoak - Tortoiseshell and white she-cat. *Apprentice*: Hopepaw

Blueheart - Russian blue she-cat with leafy green eyes. Formerly of NightClan.

Apprentice: Snowpaw

Windrunner - Light grey tom with brown paws and chest. He has one green eye and one blue eye.

Cloudsmoke - A white tom with gray speckles.

Blackfrost - White tom with black paws and green eyes.
Apprentice: Sunpaw

Stormfire: Light brown tom with black stripes and tan colored paws, tail, and ears. *Apprentice*: Rainpaw

Fawnspots - Light brown she-cat with white spots. She is blind in one eye due to a fox attack in her apprenticehood.
Apprentice: Lightningpaw

Grayclaw - Gray tom with white blotches.
Apprentice: Winterpaw

Ivyleaf - Light grey tabby she-cat with beautiful green eyes.

Brokenfoot - Senior orange tabby tom with a slight limp due to a damaged paw.

APPRENTICES:

Rainpaw - Grey tabby she-cat with bright amber eyes.

Sunpaw - Golden she-cat with white paws, chest, muzzle, and tail tip. She has stunning green eyes like those of her mother, Ivyleaf

Hopepaw - Pretty light grey she-cat with pale green eyes.

Poppypaw - Beautiful tortoiseshell and white she-cat with greenish blue eyes like those of her siblings Hawkpaw and Honeypaw. Probably the nicest cat in the clan.

Hawkpaw - Golden brown tabby tom with white paws and muzzle.

Honeypaw (*Medicine Cat Apprentice*) - Golden she cat with white paws and muzzle.

Winterpaw - White tom with black speckles. He is very arrogant and boastful.

Lightningpaw - Bright orange tom with stone blue eyes.

Snowpaw - Pure white she-cat with grey-speckles with eyes like her brother, Lightningpaw.

Shadowpaw - Dark gray tom with vibrant amber eyes.

QUEENS:

Willowear - White she-cat with grey ears and an over-fluffy tail.
Mother of : Bramblekit, Heatherkit, and Lionkit.

Rivereye - Tortoiseshell she-cat with ocean blue eyes.
Mother of: Leafkit.

ELDERS

Birdsong - Small russian blue she-cat with grey paws and chest. Her origins are unknown, although it is likely she is from NightClan.

Morningsun - Golden she-cat with brilliant amber eyes.

Darkfur - Deaf black tom with green eyes.

Prologue

Sunpaw's head snapped off her mossy nest. A sudden chill went up her spine, making the hairs on her neck stand. She looked down to notice that she wasn't in her nest, but rather laying on rough layers of grass. Upon further inspection, she noticed something darker spattered onto the thin green lines.

Was that... blood?

Horrified, she looked at her surroundings. This defiantly wasn't the apprentices den - and she had no idea how she had gotten here.

Tall pines surrounded her on every angle. A heavy fog blocked her from seeing anything, and the land was flat and dark. The sound of running water grabbed her attention, and she turned towards its direction.

Just behind her, the flat land sloped down into a cliff. It was deep enough that she couldn't see down off the edge.

Sunpaw padded forward and poked her head over the edge. At the bottom ran what looked like a river. But instead of beautiful, clear water like the river in DuskClan, this river was dark. Just like everything else here. Thick, black liquid seemed to pour over the eroded ledges that lead to who knows where.

"Ah, I see you've made it."

Sunpaw whipped around to face the source of the voice. To her dismay, all she saw was the ongoing stretch of pines. No one was there.

"W-Who are you?" She asked wearily.

The voice chuckled, but did not show their form. From their voice, Sunpaw could tell whoever was talking to her was a she-cat. "Just call me Red, young one. I have brought you here to ask you of something. Something that will benefit you." The voice continued.

Sunpaw shook her head, glancing around. "Not until I see you. S-Show yourself!" The voice laughed again, and out of the corner of her eye, Sunpaw could see a white pelt come into view. She turned, but only to once again be horrified by what she saw. In front of her stood a torn up white she-cat. Her pelt was covered in scars and deadlocked to the point of never being strait again. Her eyes are what scared the apprentice the most.

There was no emotion in those ice blue eyes. Nothing but a cold, merciless stare that seemed to bore into her soul and watch her every move and thought.

"This is the place that I call home. I train cats like you. Special cats. One with potential to be better than they already are." Red explained.

Sunpaw looked at the bloodstains surrounding her. This wasn't right. "Why is there so much blood..?" She asked, turning away from the cat. However, she made sure to stay alert. She didn't know what to expect from 'Red'.

"Why wouldn't there be?" Red responded, grinning. "That's how we train here. Claws out. Without claws, clan training is simple kittypet play."

Sunpaw thought of her mentor, Blackfrost. He was a skilled and talented warrior in the arts of battle. But he has never trained with claws...

"But that doesn't make any sense... I know plenty of warriors who are great fi-" She was cut off by Red.

"You think you know them. One wrong move, and their dead. It's simple, really. The clans all have similar tactics. That's what I

change here."

"Here, you learn to make sure something as silly doesn't happen. You learn to be greater." Red stopped for a moment and stared into the pines.

"Think of me as.. mentor number two." She suddenly said, averting her gaze back to Sunpaw.

"They may train you to fight like kittypets, but I keep your claws sharp and your wits about you." She finished.

Sunpaw looked down at her paws. As of yet, she wasn't fond of Red. The clans didn't train like kittypets, right?

Do kittypets even train?

Sunpaw shook her head quickly. Now was not the time to get distracted.

"So, what do you say, young one?" Red smiled. Sunpaw didn't like her smile either. There was something unsettling about it - something eerie.

"You'll be better than even your leader- and soon you'll follow in his footsteps." Red tempted.

Sunpaw looked down at her paws. Was this really what she wanted? She looked around at the scenery. Sunpaw had listened to and memorized every single detail to the stories the elders had told her. This place looked actually a lot like...

She froze.

The Dark Forest.

"..No." Sunpaw responded, standing tall. Her stomach churned and she felt sick. But she wasn't going to let Red know that.

Red's smile instantly dropped. "No? What do you mean, no? I said you could be better than all of your warriors. Even your leader!" She growled.

"I have my ways of living, and you have yours. I j-" Sunpaw was yet again cut off.

"You can't turn me down!" Red hissed. She became a lot more menacing in that moment. "I promised you success!"

"And I don't want it! I'm perfectly fine the way I am." Sunpaw paused. "Why can't you just pick on someone else, like Rainpaw!" She shouted.

Her voiced echoed off the trees, and in an instant she realized her mistake. Red's smile once again crept up her face, and that cold stare once again returned.

"...And who is Rainpaw?"

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Hey guys!

Thanks for checking this book out! I can't seem to escape the Warriors series and am re-writing this from my old account (For the what, third time now? XD).

I apologize for the length of this prologue - the other chapters will be much longer! I also apologize for any mistakes or parts that seemed like they lacked details and went too fast. After all, I'm not the best writer around.

Be sure to vote, comment, and share! Constructive criticism is always appreciated!

Chapter One

Rainpaw crouched down, intently watching the unsuspecting mouse in front of her. It was only a few days before her warrior assessment, and she really needed to work on her hunting skills. According to her mentor, Stormfire, her battle skills were absolutely flawless. It was the hunting that was a problem.

Her eyes narrowed as she focused. The poor mouse still didn't have a clue that she was there.

So far, so good.

Slowly, she stalked forward. Her paw steps were as light as she could possibly make them.

A twig snapped.

The mouse's head shot up in alarm. Within seconds, it was gone, leaving only a half-eaten acorn to prove it had ever been there.

Rainpaw let out an exasperated sigh and looked down. Sure enough, a small stick lay in two pieces right underneath her paw.

She heard a rustle in the bushes. "Always watch the ground!" Stormfire exclaimed, revealing himself. He didn't look very pleased.

She sat upright, staring at the spot the mouse once was. "I know." She meowed, disappointed. "Its easier said than done." Her tail dropped and she mentally cursed at herself for forgetting one of the simplest things.

"I don't know how you can be so good at battle moves but so much less at hunting." Stormfire said, curling his tail over his paws.

Rainpaw shrugs and looks at the ground. "Fighting gives more of a thrill. Hunting is boring." She said simply.

Stormfire only nods slightly and makes a "Hm." sound.

Rainpaw looked up to the sky. The bright blue had since faded into brilliant oranges, reds, and pinks. They really should be heading back. Stormfire seemed to notice as well.

"Lets head back." He said, flicking his tail.

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After what seemed like forever, the camp's cave came into view. From the outside, it didn't seem like much. The entrance was only a small slit in the large rock wall at the bottom of a cliff. Vines crawled up the sides and stuck in between every crack it could find. Tall grasses pushed up against the wall and made it look almost uninhabitable. The only way to tell that it was populated was the pushed down grass that lead to the small hole.

Rainpaw sighed in relief and tiredly padded into the camp. Her paws ached from being out hunting for mostly the whole day and she was most definitely ready for some food. Instantly, she was greeted with the familiar smell of fresh herbs from the medicine den.

"You are dismissed. Get some prey and settle down for the night." Stormfire said. He left her side and padded over to the nursery, most likely to talk with his mate Riverjay.

Rainpaw nodded and scoured the camp, searching for her sisters. Out of the corner of her eye she spotted the unmistakable bright orange pelt of her sister Sunpaw, followed by the light gray pelt her other sister Hopepaw.

"Hey Rainpaw! How was training today?" A sweet voice asked.

Rainpaw turned and was met by the gray tabby face of her mother.

"Unsuccessful. Again." Rainpaw huffed, pulling her ears back.

Ivyleaf only gave a small chuckle. "Don't worry. You'll get better at it. A lot better. Believe it or not, your father was even worse than you were." She purred.

Her father, Flameclaw, had died in a battle between DuskClan and NightClan only a few days after the three were born. The only way the tabby ever knew she had a father was in the stories that Ivyleaf told them when they were kits. Sunpaw had gotten his fiery bright pelt and Rainpaw got his bright amber eyes.

"Really?" She said, letting out a purr of amusement.

"Oh yes! He was awful!" Her mother's eyes went distant for a moment before she snapped back to reality. "Well, I don't want to keep you waiting." She meowed. "I'm pretty sure Willowear needs help containing her kits. But trust me, hunting will start to become natural for you."

"Of course." Rainpaw remarked. "And thanks." She gave Ivyleaf a goodbye nod and started to leave.

"Oh, and Rainpaw?"

The apprentice turned back to her mother.

"Sunpaw has been a little off today. Would you check up on her please?"

"Sure!" Rainpaw smiled. Her mother smiled back and headed towards the nursery.

Rainpaw turned back to her sisters and happily bounded over. "Hey guys!" She purred, sitting down.

Hopepaw turned to Rainpaw and cheerfully nodded in greeting. Sunpaw, however, didn't take her eyes off the ground. Her body went stiff at the sound of Rainpaw's voice.

Ivyleaf was right, Sunpaw was being weird. The bright orange apprentice was always the bright and bubbly one of the three. Rainpaw had never seen her without a smile plastered on her face.

An awkward silence passed between them.

"Sunpaw...?"

Sunpaw suddenly stood up and cleared her throat. "I'm gonna go get some fresh kill." Her sister stood up and padded away without another word.

As soon as Sunpaw had left she turned to Hopepaw. "What's wrong with her?" She asked, concerned for her sister.

"Not a clue." Hopepaw replied, her eyes following Sunpaw. "She's been a little off all day, but she was okay until you came." Her gaze shifted over to Rainpaw.

Fine before I came? What did I do?

"I don't remember saying anything particularly mean to her, and even if I did she would just shake it off." Rainpaw said, confusion swirling in her mind.

Hopepaw shrugged again but didn't provide any more answers.

Out of curiosity, Rainpaw rose to her paws and followed her sister, determined to find out what was wrong. Hopepaw narrowed her eyes but headed into the apprentice den.

"Hey Sunpaw! Wait up!"

Sunpaw, however, had other ideas and took a sharp turn and headed quickly into the apprentices den after Hopepaw. She didn't look back.

Rainpaw stopped near the entrance of the large cave. She thought for a moment, and then decided to leave Sunpaw alone, knowing that she'd probably be fine by tomorrow. Besides, they were sisters. They told each other everything.

The sweet smell of fresh-kill reached her nose and she realized how hungry she was. As if on cue, her stomach growled loudly. Rainpaw took one last sad look into the apprentices den before turning around and padding over to the fresh-kill. She stopped and looked

at her options. Her stomach growled again.

Seven mice, four squirrels, and one bird.

She picked out one of the squirrels and padded back to the cave after her sisters.

She glanced around the den and instantly noticed Sunpaw 'asleep' in her nest. None of the other apprentices were sleeping yet. Hopepaw was sharing a mouse with Hawkpaw and chatting quietly with Lightningpaw and Snowpaw.

The tabby padded over to her nest and settled down. She set the squirrel next to her and glanced over at Sunpaw. She had her back turned.

Rainpaw scoured her mind, trying to rethink every little detail of the day. What could have possibly upset her? The apprentice hadn't seen her sister for most of if not all of the day, so how could she be the cause? All of these questions just made her more frustrated. None of them had answers.

Rainpaw desperately wanted to talk to her sister, but if time was what she needed then Rainpaw would give it to her.

The squirrel didn't seem that good anymore.

Sighing, she pushed it aside, deciding to finish it in the morning. Rainpaw turned over and curled up, trying to push those thoughts out of her mind. After what seemed like an eternity, darkness consumed her and she was asleep.

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When she woke she wasn't in the apprentices den.

Rainpaw jolted up, frantically looking around. This was definitely *not* her nest. This wasn't even near DuskClan territory. It was dark and dreary, and she didn't like it.

"Welcome, Rainpaw." A voice said.

She spun around to face a white she-cat who's pelt was far beyond repairable. The she-cat stared down at Rainpaw with a cold, merciless, icy glare.

"My name's Red. I brought you here."

"Where am I?" Rainpaw demanded, trying to hide the fact that she was absolutely terrified. Her paws shook beneath her as she stepped back from this new cat.

"This is a forest that me and many others call home. But trust me, it's not as bad as it looks." She said, giving a small smile. "I brought you here because I train cats... special cats that have potential better than they already are." She explained.

"Cats like you."

Rainpaw relaxed a little. She was just trying to help, right? But in a place like this...?
"What do you mean better than they already are?" She asked, somewhat interested. The apprentice had always dreamed of being a great fighting warrior, protecting her clan.

"Battle tactics. Mine are better, more efficient. You could be better than your own leader."

Better than my own leader? She thought about that. Being the best fighter in the clan surely couldn't have a bad outcome, could it?

"So what do you say? Do you want to train with me?"

Rainpaw thought for a moment. She could be the best...she could win in every battle. This was her dream! However, this was a strange cat in a strange land. From the looks of it, Red could kill Rainpaw with a flick of her paw. But she had a strange trust in this cat, a trust that no logical cat would have.

A trust that she feared.

"If you need time, I'll be more than happy to give it to you. Whenever you're ready." Red purred.

Rainpaw thought for a second. There was no way that she could deny that she wanted to be the best. The tabby looked up determinedly and let out two life-changing words.

"I accept."

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Hey guys! Once again, I apologize for any mistakes or if it seemed like it was rushed.

Please comment any opinions or thoughts below! I love reading them!

Chapter Two

[image]

"Rainpaw!"

The tabby perked her ears at the familiar sound of her sisters voice, but didn't open her eyes. It wasn't until a sharp stab in her flank did she groggily crack her eyes open. She blinked a few times to focus on the figure standing over her, which she made out to be Hopepaw. Her sister was not happy. The apprentice wore an annoyed face as she glared down at her sister.

"Rainpaw, get up! We're training together today!" She exclaimed frantically. She was pacing back and forth now. "We can't be late!"

Rainpaw rolled her eyes and lifted her head up. Why did her sister have to be such a rule-follower? "Being a few moments late won't change anything." The apprentice remarked, smirking. Oh how she loved annoying Hopepaw. It has always been easy. Sometimes even too easy.

Hopepaw stopped her pacing to turn around and glare at Rainpaw. "Sorry that I actually want to be useful to this clan." She put her head and tail up high as she defended herself. "Seriously, we're becoming warriors in a half-moon and I'm not being late on the last stretch of training sessions."

"Alright, alright." Rainpaw groaned, getting to a sitting position. Moving fast made her head dizzy for a moment, but she regained her balance and blinked a few times. Her nest was so warm and comfortable, she really didn't want to train today. "I'm up, see?"

Hopepaw only huffed and turned to leave. "Hurry up, you mouse-brain."

The tabby gave a light chuckle as she watched her sister quickly pad out of the apprentices den. She blinked a few more times, letting her eyes focus. Suddenly she remembered something. "Hey!"

She meowed, "what about-" she turned her head, expecting to see the sleeping form of Sunpaw. "-Sunpaw..."

Rainpaw sighed and fully stood up. She quickly shook off the moss that was still clinging to her messy fur and followed Hopepaw. There wasn't any time to groom herself now.

Her eyes traveled around the camp as she exited her den. Most of the clearing was already empty, leaving what usually seemed like a large cave look extremely small. Patrols had been set by Nightflare and were out in the woods catching prey and marking borders. Most of the apprentices were out as well. The only ones remaining were Hopepaw, Shadowpaw, and herself.

Her gaze landed on the fresh-kill pile, which was still looking a little slim. Since she had only just woken up, the tabby wasn't ready for a meal yet. Plus, she still had the squirrel that was still laying by her nest to get through. She hadn't even seen it when she woke up.

Rainpaw pondered for a moment. "But where's-"

"Sunpaw?" A voice interrupted. Rainpaw glanced up to see Stormfire standing beside her. She didn't even hear him approach. "Blackfrost took her out this morning for some early training. She'll be joining us later."

The apprentice nodded in understanding but worry still etched her mind. She never did find out what was wrong with her yesterday.

"Come on!" Hopepaw shouted from across the clearing.

"I'm coming!"

Rainpaw quickly padded across the clearing with Stormfire right behind her. Hopepaw was so getting anxious now.

Next to Hopepaw stood her mentor Spottedoak. Rainpaw envied her beautiful, sleek, tortoiseshell and white fur. Her voice was as sweet as honey and could leave any tom at her feet.

"Are we ready to go?" Spottedoak meowed, looking between

Stormfire and the apprentices.

"Yep!" Both apprentices chorused.

"Great!" The older she-cat flicked her tail excitedly and turned to the exit of the camp with the others following shortly behind her.

Rainpaw turned to her sister. Hopepaw's eyes were almost radiating excitement as she exited the cave and glanced at the greenish-orange trees. She truly wanted to become a warrior. Hopepaw was as loyal to her clan as a true leader is. Rainpaw, on the other hand, didn't think too much of it. Sure, becoming a warrior is exciting at first, but the excitement would quickly die out when you found there was nothing to do. Unless you had an apprentice to train, which she knew she wouldn't for a while.

As the four padded through the woods she took the time to think about last night. So far, it hadn't crossed her mind. But something about Red made her uneasy. Any other warrior would have turned their back at one look at Red or even the forest. For some reason, she didn't.

For some reason, she wanted to trust Red. She wanted to learn from her and later use those tactics in battle. She wanted to become better.

But was it the right choice?

A strong gust of wind tore her from her thoughts. This early in the morning, the breeze was cold and harsh. The trees and bushes around her swayed as if in greeting and let their leaves flutter down to the ground. Leaf-fall was coming soon. To her, leaf-fall was when the forest looked to prettiest and was the most peaceful.

"We're here!" Spottedoak chirped happily.

"Alright." Stormfire said. "We're going to play a little game."

Both her and her sister's ears perked with interest.

"Rainpaw will go one way and Hopepaw will go another. Whoever can catch the most prey by..." He looked up to the sky,

judging the time. It was well past dawn but not quite yet sun-high. "...Sun-high will eat first when we return to camp."

Rainpaw sighed. There was no way she would be able to win against Hopepaw. She was one of the best hunters in the clan, for StarClan's sake!

"Hey," Hopepaw turned to her and purred. "I'll go easy on you, don't worry."

Rainpaw rolled her eyes and turned back to her mentor.

"Ready, set-"

"Wait!"

Rainpaw's ears turned in the direction of the voice before her head did. She noticed two figures, one smaller than the other. Rainpaw made out the white pelt of Blackfrost, which was followed by her sister Sunpaw.

"You thought you could start without us, eh?" Blackfrost chucked as he drew near.

"I was hoping to." Stormfire remarked, giving a small smile. Blackfrost and Stormfire weren't related, but were as close as brothers. She is sure that's why Redstar gave the duo siblings so they could train together.

Blackfrost snorted at the comment and sat next to him, curling his long and bushy tail neatly over his paws. "Fill me in. What are we doing?"

As Stormfire explained once again, Rainpaw turned her head to focus on Sunpaw. Her mentor's voice became muffled as she watched her sister. She had been so quiet that if Rainpaw didn't know any better, her sister wouldn't have even been noticed.

She looked down, getting lost in thought. Stormfire's voice droned on in the background, but she couldn't care less as to what he was saying. Sunpaw was really starting to bother her now. This wasn't normal activity for the bright apprentice, and it even left

their mother confused.

Maybe if Ivyleaf talked to her daughter, Sunpaw would spill. She wasn't exactly the best at keeping secrets or lying.

"-Rainpaw?"

Her head snapped up. Both Sunpaw and Hopepaw were gone already, off chasing prey.

"We started..." Stormfire said slowly, noticing her confusion.

"O-oh!" Her ears heated up in embarrassment as she scrambled to her paws and raced off into the woods.

Focus, Rainpaw. Focus.

She shook her head. Sunpaw would tell her eventually, right? The three were extremely close and told each other everything.

Not only did she have to worry about Sunpaw, she now had to worry about Red. And she didn't know what to expect from Red. Anything could happen.

_____

oH MY GOSH.
IM SO SORRY I DIDN'T UPDATE FOR THIS LONG.
I literally could not find any motivation to do this chapter. But, here I am! Just as promised.

Please leave any comments/constructive criticism below!

Till next chapter!~

Chapter Three

[image]

At sun-high, the three returned to the grassy clearing where their mentors waited. Even after a few unsuccessful tries (and running into some trees), Rainpaw still managed to come out with two mice, which was a great accomplishment. The apprentice was extremely proud of herself until she saw Hopepaw set down two mice and two squirrels.

Rainpaw huffed in defeat and turned to Sunpaw to see what she caught. Surprisingly, she only caught one squirrel. Sure, Sunpaw wasn't the best hunter in the clan, but she was certainly much better than Rainpaw.

"Alright, looks like we have a winner!" Stormfire meowed, tearing her from her in thoughts. He flicked his tail in Hopepaw's direction.

Hopepaw's face lit up and she proudly lifted her head and tail.

"I thought you said you'd go easy on me." Rainpaw joked, turning to her sister.

Hopepaw rolled her eyes. "I haven't eaten yet. I'm not waiting for you slowpokes." Although Hopepaw was one hundred percent follow-the-clan-rules, she was extremely impatient and sarcastic.

"Alright, let's head back. Hopepaw-" The apprentice looked up at Stormfire."-As promised, you get first pick."

She smiled and picked up her prey with her eyes bright. The apprentice walked past the other two with Spottedoak by her side and Blackfrost next to the tortoiseshell's.

"Show off." Rainpaw muttered under her breath.

"Hm? Did you say something Rainpaw?" Hopepaw asked. She set

her prey down and looked to her sister with expectant eyes. Although she couldn't see it, she could tell Spottedoak was rolling her eyes as she continued on without her apprentice. Blackfrost only chuckled and shook his head as he continued his conversation with Spottedoak. All three mentors were used to the bickering by now.

"Nope. Nothing." Rainpaw smirked. She had gotten good at defending herself against her sister. A valuable trait to have, because this one could be feisty.

"Right, right. Of course." The she-cat purred sarcastically. She picked up her prey and continued her proud walk into the oak forest and towards the camp.

Rainpaw couldn't help but snicker when her sister turned her back. She looked to Sunpaw, expecting to see the same reaction from her. The bright she-cat usually found amusement in her sister's quarrels.

"That was clos-" She stopped herself.

Sunpaw was no longer next to her. She snapped her head up to see her trailing after Hopepaw with her head down and tail dragging. She soon disappeared into the slowly dying shrubbery without a sound.

The tabby almost didn't notice when Stormfire flicked her on the shoulder with his tail. "You coming, slacker?" He joked, smiling.

Rainpaw snapped out of her thoughts and rolled her eyes. "Yeah yeah, I'm coming."

She climbed to her paws and bent down to grab her two mice. She stopped to look for Sunpaw's squirrel, noticing she didn't have it with her. Sure enough, it laid on the ground a few tail-lengths away.

Rainpaw picked up her own catch and padded over to pick up her sister's. For a squirrel, it was extremely small. It didn't look that healthy.

Nevertheless, her sister worked hard to catch it, so she'd bring it.

The apprentice brought it into her jaws and ran after Stormfire, who was waiting at the edge of the clearing for her.

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On the way back, Rainpaw took the time to look at her surroundings. The sky was a beautiful bright blue, and not a single cloud was to be seen. Light breezes ruffled the tops of the trees that were starting to get the red tint of leaf-fall. She looked down and noticed the acorns that littered the ground with the leaves and settled into the soft yellowing grass.

DuskClan territory was truly beautiful.

By the time the duo reached the cave that was the camp, Hopepaw was half way through a vole and in a conversation with Hawkpaw.

She blinked a few times, letting her eyes adjust to the darkness. When they focused, she noticed how close the two were sitting.

Rainpaw rolled her eyes. Any time they could be, the two were always together, making lovey-dovey eyes at each other and standing so close. It made her want to be sick. Unlike her sister, she planned on being pretty much alone for the rest of her life. The tabby didn't hang around with toms that much. In fact, she didn't hang around anyone that much. Not even she-cats. Maybe she was just anti-social.

Rainpaw tore her eyes from the lovebirds and gazed around the cave. All of the morning patrols and training sessions were back and sharing tongues. Thinking of her own pelt, she looked down and sighed. Her fur was all ruffled and stuck out at awkward angles. The apprentice doesn't remember the last time she groomed herself.

Stormfire had wandered away, more than likely to visit his mate

and kits in the nursery.

Rainpaw brought both her and her sisters prey back to the fresh-kill pile. Speaking of Sunpaw, where was she?

She set one of the mice and the squirrel down with the rest of the fresh-kill and searched the cave once again. Apprentices and warriors alike gossiped and laughed. But no sign of Sunpaw.

Rainpaw shook her head and started to groom her fur, pushing it back down to a sleeker state so she looked presentable.

"Rainpaw?"

The apprentice looked up to see the silver tabby pelt of her mother.

"Yeah?" She asked, getting into a more comfortable sitting position.

"Have you talked to Sunpaw yet?"

Rainpaw sighed. "She keeps avoiding me. I haven't gotten the chance."

"Oh." Ivyleaf meows. She looks up and around the cave. "Where is she now?"

"Not sure. I haven't seen her since training."

"Hm." Her mother stopped for a moment and glanced over the cave again. "If you see her, send her to me."

Rainpaw nodded. "Okay, will do."

The silver tabby cleared her throat and tilted her head to the side. A classic Ivyleaf gesture. "On another note, how was training?"

"We had a hunting competition. Hopepaw won. *Again."* She meowed, flicking her tail.

Ivyleaf chuckled. "Well, you have battle skills in what she has in

hunting skills."

"Wha-"

"That's right. I've watched you train before." Her mother purred. "You're amazing. So don't let this hunting thing get to you."

Rainpaw stood up a little straighter at her mother's complement. "Right."

"That's the spirit that I like to see!" She meowed, standing up. "Well, I'll let you eat your meal. I'll see if I can find your sister."

"Okay." Rainpaw smiled.

Ivyleaf nodded and padded away, leaving Rainpaw by herself. She looked down at the mouse between her paws hungrily and took a huge bite.

She took the time to think. To think about Sunpaw, think about Red, think about everything.

The apprentice wondered if Red would bring her back to the cruel forest tonight. She still had an off feeling about the torn up she-cat.

She couldn't help but wonder if the Sunpaw thing and Red were connected.

Rainpaw shook her head quickly. There's no way that Sunpaw would even go near a cat like Red. One look at those merciless eyes and she would be running the opposite way with her tail between her legs. Although, Sunpaw did start acting weird when she met Red.

She needed to get these thoughts out of her head. There was no way.

...Right?

_____

I apologize for the lack of updates... With school having started about two months ago I just never found the time.

Please leave comments and constructive criticism below! Thank you!

Chapter Four

[image]

Hopepaw + Sunpaw

The rest of the day went fairly quickly. Hopepaw, as expected, caught around three more mice and a vole. Rainpaw, with great luck, managed to come out with two squirrels. Sunpaw only caught one more mouse.

As the day slowly faded into the great colors of sundown, Rainpaw's paws started to ache. In fact, her whole body was exhausted from a long day of chasing prey.

She wasn't quite sure how far out they really were. It didn't seem like too much of a walk there, but it sure was going back. Maybe it was just because she was tired. Tree after tree passed, until finally the familiar small cliff came into view. Rainpaw breathed in a sigh of relief as the cave opening seemed to welcomingly greet her.

"You three are dismissed for the night." Blackfrost meowed. The setting sun cast a dark shadow on his face, making him almost look like Red. Minus the ruffled fur and blue eyes of course. The tom's fur was sleek, not matted and stained. And his eyes were a bright emerald green. Rainpaw quickly shook her head. What was she thinking, comparing the two?

Rainpaw nodded towards Blackfrost, not being able to talk with the prey in her mouth. She and the other two sisters padded into the cave.

She could smell before she could see. The strong herb scent hit her like a wave every time she entered. Why did they have to put it so close to the entrance?

As her eyes quickly adjusted to the darkness, Rainpaw dodged through warriors and apprentices to reach the fresh-kill pile, where she set down her prey. Hopepaw and Sunpaw did the same.

"Hey, Sunpa..." Hopepaw started, but trailed off. The orange apprentice was already gone, heading towards the apprentices den. A skinny squirrel hung from her jaws as she left without a word.

Hopepaw sighed and turned to her remaining sister. "Well... do you want to sit with us?" She flicked her tail in the direction of Hawkpaw and his sister Poppypaw.

Rainpaw nodded, grateful to not have to sit alone. "I'd be happy to."

The two picked up mice and padded over to the other apprentices. Hawkpaw must have heard their paw steps because his ears perked and he turned his head, high in alert. Upon seeing the two, his eyes softened and he purred.

"Hello, Hopepaw!" He meowed happily. "And Rainpaw."

Hopepaw had a large smile on her face as she laid down next to him. Rainpaw rolled her eyes but nodded in a greeting. As rude as it sounded, she knew that Hawkpaw wasn't trying to be exclusive of her. Hopepaw and the tom were so in love that it made her sick.

Rainpaw set her mouse down and settled next to Poppypaw, who gave her a small yet knowing smile.

"So what did you guys do today?" Hawkpaw asked, taking a bite from his vole.

"Just a lot of hunting. And a competition in which Hopepaw won." *Might as well help her out.* Rainpaw smirked towards her sister, who only gave her a glare.

"Really?" Hawkpaw asked, looking at Hopepaw. His eyes were bright with interest.

"It was nothing, really..." Hopepaw said quietly.

"No, that's really something! Did-"

"Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath the high rock for a clan meeting!" Redstar's voice cut through the cave and

stopped the apprentice's conversation.

"What's happening?" Rainpaw said, standing up.

"Snowpaw and Lightningpaw's warrior ceremony. I completely forgot about it!" Poppypaw's soft voice meowed, standing next to her.

"I didn't even know about it." Rainpaw chuckled. Sure, she knew everyone, but she never really talked with the two. They trained together only a few times but never talked outside of that.

The four walked forward and sat down under the ledge.

"Today we are here to welcome some new warriors." Redstar meowed proudly. He looked down at the two eager apprentices. "Snowpaw and Lightningpaw, please step forward!"

Both stepped forward at the exact same second, as if perfectly in sync. Their eyes showed such excitement for their warrior names.

"I, Redstar, leader of DuskClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn." He said.

"Snowpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Snowpaw said, puffing her chest out.

Redstar smiled and continued. "Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Snowpaw, from this moment you will be known as Snowcloud. StarClan honors your bravery and loyalty, and we welcome you as a full warrior of DuskClan!"

"Snowcloud! Snowcloud!" The clan cheered happily. She stepped back down and let her brother have his turn.

"Lightningpaw." The orange leader said, looking down at the apprentice. Lightningpaw was almost shaking from excitement now. "Do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and

defend your clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." He meowed.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Lightningpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Lightningstrike. StarClan honors your kindness and hard-working personality, and we welcome you as a full warrior of DuskClan!"

"Lightningstrike! Lightningstrike!"

He also stepped down as the clan cheered. Their mother and father, Dawnbreaker and Cloudsmoke, looked almost on the brink of tears as their children were welcomed by the clan. They rushed forward to congratulate them theirselves.

Rainpaw sat back and watched as Snowcloud talked with her father. She looked like a clone of him, with the same fluffy white fur and gray speckles. The only difference was the eyes, with Cloudsmoke having a dark amber and Snowcloud with a stone blue.

Rainpaw wondered what it was like to have a father. She wasn't able to ponder on it because her mother had settled down beside her.

"That will be you soon." She said, watching them.

"Right." Rainpaw responded. But not once did she take her eyes off of the father and his daughter.

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Things had calmed down fairly quickly. Rainpaw had finished off her mouse and was now laying in her nest, waiting for sleep to take her.

And it did, with her exhaustion.

When she woke, she wasn't surprised to see the familiar foggy forest instead of the den wall. Red had taken her again.

"Welcome back Rainpaw."

The voice send shivers up her spine and made her fur stand on end.

"Hello, Red." She forced out. Rainpaw stood up and looked around, searching for the fluffy cat. The apprentice spotted her sitting at the edge of the clearing, a smirk on her face.

"Ready to begin training?" Red asked. New wounds showed on her pure white pelt, but there was no blood. There was never any blood.

"Of course."

Chapter Five

JUST LETTING YOU GUYS KNOW IM NOT DEAD AND AM CONTINUING THIS

"Again!"

As instructed, Rainpaw leaped into the air. After countless failures, the apprentice was sure she would hit her new mentor this time.

But yet again, Red sidesteps at the last literal second. Rainpaw could even feel the brush of her fluffy fur on her outstretched paws as she landed on the ground roughly and went rolling.

Another fail.

Rainpaw groaned in both frustration and pain. Her shoulder was throbbing after having landed on it so many times.

"Again!" Red demanded, flicking her tail.

"Can't you tell me what I'm doing wrong?" She begged, rolling off of her side. The tabby was getting irritated with all of these failures.

"Giving up already?" She huffed. "Your opponent isn't just going to tell you how to defeat them." She smirked and started to slowly circle the much smaller cat. Rainpaw managed to stand up and move her head to watch the fluffy she-cat.

"In a battle, you won't have anyone to tell you what to do, or how to do it." She continued, "You have to fix your mistakes yourself, otherwise you're just a walking target."

Rainpaw never brought her gaze down from those ice blue eyes. She replayed the scene in her head over and over, wondering where she went wrong. Red's great speed was no match for her, she realized. She would have to get extremely close to leap, and when

Red dodged it, hit the ground and make a sharp turn to leap again.

She snapped her head up and crouched down into the sand. Red had stopped circling her now and was waiting expectantly. "Figured it out?" She asked.

"I think so." Rainpaw meowed. Red gave her a small nod, telling her to go when she was ready.

When Red saw her stalking forward she was prepared to sidestep. In the second that her front paw took a step forward, the scarred she-cat had her muscled bunched to jump away.

Rainpaw was only about a fox length away now. She put all of her weight into her back legs and leaped through the air, aiming directly at the older-she cat.

As expected, Red sidestepped yet again. Rainpaw put her grand plan into action and managed to land on her paws instead of on her side. In the second she regained her balance, she was in the air again. This time she hit Red perfectly in the flank.

Both she-cats went tumbling through the sand. Somehow, Red had managed to get her balance back and stop. Rainpaw, however, wasn't quite as lucky and continued rolling.

Her shoulder began to hurt again as her momentum stopped. The pain had completely disappeared in her adrenaline rush.

"Come on, get up!" Red snickered. "You did good, we're going to try something new now."

Rainpaw groaned but did as asked. The apprentice turned over and shook out her fur as she climbed to her paws.

Suddenly, something dark passed through Red's eyes, and her face hardened. The look sent shivers down the apprentice's spine but she stood tall, proud of her accomplishment.

"Claws out." Red said.

The tabby could only stare, dumbfounded at the order. "Sorry...

what?" She said.

"Your claws. Get them out."

Rainpaw looked down and unsheathed her claws, and uneasy feeling sinking in her stomach. What did she need her claws for? No one ever trained with their claws out.

"Now, leap at me. Pretend this is a real battle! She ordered. "Always battle with the ferocity of a great lion!"

The apprentice lowered her body once again and stalked forward. Her heart was hammering against her chest as she nervously went. Would Red use her claws too? She looked, but the older she-cat didn't have them out yet. Rainpaw knew that could change in an instant. The apprentice had never been in a battle, and only used her claws to catch prey. Nevertheless, Rainpaw used the same tactic as before and jumped, claws outstretched. She really didn't want to hurt Red. As mean as she looked, the fluffy she-cat didn't seem that bad. Red again sidestepped and Rainpaw skidded to a halt before jumping again.

Her claws met flesh before she could process what she was doing. The two tumbled again, Rainpaw keeping her claws hooked into her mentor's side.

Red hissed and swiped her claws across the apprentice's flank.

Rainpaw screeched and released her grip, bringing her claws back in. She skidded back and looked down at her wound. Claw marks stretched down her side, but she wasn't able to tell how big they were. In those few mere seconds, blood had stained a good portion of her fur. She stood there gasping as her whole side seemed to ignite in flames.

The apprentice snapped her head up to look up at Red, her fear now evident on her face. The apprentice was beyond scared now, but with one look up at Red her heart sank down into her stomach.

There was such fire in her eyes as she stood there watching. Blood stained her side, showing clearly against her white fur. Red

didn't even seem to notice it.

"Hm." Red said nonchalantly, as if it was nothing. As if she was a pesky fly that was swatted away with the flick of her tail.

Rainpaw was in too much shock to be able to move. She urged herself to run, just run and run and never stop. But her paws refused to obey and stood rooted to the ground.

"What in the-" She began, her voice wavering.

"This is true training, claws out." Red said. No emotion. "This is how it is always going to be from now on."

Rainpaw's side was bleeding pretty heavily now. Adding that pain onto her aching shoulder made her exhausted, both physically and mentally.

"Until next time." Red said. "Goodnight, Rainpaw."

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Rainpaw gasped as she woke. Instantly she whipped her head around, making sure she was back home. Sure enough, the dark cave and sleeping bodies filled her eyesight on every angle.

Her heart was rapidly beating against her chest as she tried to calm herself down. But suddenly the pain came back, sharp and stabbing in her side. She managed to stumble to her paws with only a quiet, pained groan and quickly exit the den without waking the others. Even through her injuries she tried to be as quiet as possible to avoid drawing attention to herself. She couldn't cover this up. Not with this much blood.

Rainpaw glanced around the camp, making sure she was alone. The only sounds heard was her own heavy breathing and what was probably bats flying outside the cave. The apprentice darted forward but stayed close to the ground and walls. She dodged

around sharp edges and stopped at Redstar's den. Almost there. Slowly, she poked her head in to make sure the leader was asleep. And he was, his body curled up and breathing shallowly. She was extremely lucky that the only den on this side of the cave wall was his. Anyone from the other side wouldn't be able to see her in the darkness. Rainpaw padded past with her paw steps light. The exit was in view now, the vines hanging over the outside bright with the moonlight shining on them. The apprentice stepped into the light and made her way out of the cave.

At the second she stepped out she was running through the woods. There was no way she would be able to explain the amount of blood. The scratches, however, she could work around depending on the size.

The apprentice was even more exhausted by the time she reached the river. Her legs were shaking beneath her and her head was spinning. But she forced herself forward anyway.

Rainpaw put one foot in the water, but instantly retracted it with a small hiss. This water was freezing!

She sighed and pushed back her thoughts, slowly stepping into the water. Somehow, the apprentice managed to put one paw in front of another until she was standing with the water up to the middle of her legs. Rainpaw slowly sat down, letting the cold river water wash away the blood. The stinging pain had increased but calmed down as her flank became numb.

Rainpaw didn't stay in the water for very long. Her paws had long since lost all feeling, and her whole body shivered violently with each passing second. She didn't care though. This blood had to come off, and simply using her to tongue to clean would never work.

The apprentice looked down to her side and saw that the blood flow had stopped. The cold water had numbed it, so there wasn't much pain anymore.

The apprentice stood up out of the water and regretted her decision almost instantly. With the usual leaf-fall breeze, her soaked

body was even colder out of the water than it was in. Rainpaw took a small step forward and shook out her fur. It was almost impossible to move with her muscles stiff and cold, but she pushed herself forward. Running would not only warm up her paws, but the cold breeze would also help dry out her fur.

And so she took off, crashing through the woods as her paws thudded on the ground beneath her. Fallen leaves whisked around her gracefully (ironic for the situation, which was not so graceful), and the cold air seemed to pound against her pelt.

After a while the darkened trees started to fan out, meaning the camp was close. And sure enough, it was there, standing and waiting for her. Rainpaw's pelt was mostly dry now, and she thanked StarClan for her luck. The moon was just above the tree line, so she still had some good time before everyone woke up.

The apprentice quickly padded into the camp but made sure to keep her paw steps light again. She looked in Redstar's den again, and when deciding the coast was clear, made her way back to the apprentice den in the back.

After being in the water, her nest was extremely warm and welcoming and she plopped down into the soft moss. The soft breathing of her fellow apprentices was the only sound heard throughout the cave. Rainpaw sighed with relief and thought that it would lull her back to sleep.

But sleep never came.

No, all she could do was stare hopelessly at the rocky wall as she waited. All the apprentice could think about was Red. Red's claws ripping down her side. Red's icy blue eyes igniting with a fire so terrifying that she could've died right there.

She's not quite sure how long she sat there, lost in her thoughts. Her side stung more and more with each passing second. Rainpaw didn't know how she would be able to pass this off.

The apprentice turned her head and looked down at the wound. Her fur was still lightly damp from the river, but by morning it

would be dry. The marks weren't as big as she initially thought. The sharp pain engulfed her whole side, but the wound was maybe only the length of a small mouse tail.

Thank StarClan. She thought happily. The heat of the battle made it seem as if Red tore up her whole entire side. She could probably get away with the excuse of some particularly large brambles.

Rainpaw took in a shaky breath and tried not to focus on her flank. She closed her eyes again, and hoped that she could get at least some sleep.

She knew, though, that this was only the beginning.

Hey

As you may or may not have heard, @Kaylin_WC recently returned to Wattpad during one of our annual summer reminiscing-and-wishing-we-could-go-back late night talks over Minecraft (please don't call us losers 🧢). Typically we don't go anywhere with these conversations, just remember all the good times we had and amazing people we met. This time though something changed. Instead of just hoping, she made the decision to actually return to finish what we started. And now after about a week of convincing me, I've now decided to do the same! Her return message is much more heartfelt than mine will be (mostly because she's said pretty much everything I feel, and I don't want to copy her message), but I do want to talk about what happened and where the future is headed. Kaylin and I have been in this together since day one, and she has been the biggest inspiration for me in the past 6-7ish years we've known each other. Without her I wouldn't even be interested in writing! Although I may not have quite the fame and fans that she does, I do want to continue Rainfeather's story (and hopefully finally get it right this time!) for those who enjoyed it. This character has always meant the world to me and I want to do her justice by finally telling the true tragedy of her life. Throughout the past week or so I've been writing a large outline for every major plot point in the book (currently it's over two pages with 11pt font...and I'm not even a quarter of a way through!) with Kaylin helping with small details and words of encouragement.

By now you might be wondering why I left to being with...but it's a bit complicated to explain. Various small things, such as school/life, kind of outgrowing warriors, and not ever being super confident in anything I ever posted. The main reason, however, was due to the fact that I tried to take on too much at once. It made a significant difference in both the quality and quantity of updates and kinda severed the connections I had with my stories. I got so excited about putting content out in the world that I honestly think I truly lost sight of why I was doing it to begin with.(I recall one time writing in about seven different books at once...yikes!). I ended up

overloading myself and never got around to finishing anything, because the connection just wasn't there anymore. I'd start a story, make a few chapters, and then quickly lose interest and repeat the process. Wattpad was becoming more and more like a chore that needed to be done, and I lost my interest in writing as a whole. This time around I'm taking extra precautions to pace myself and give my stories deeper and more complex characters and plots (another major problem of mine was lacking character development...). This means only one story at a time, and so far I'm planning on it being about Rainfeather.

Please keep in mind that I created this roleplay when I was eleven, and started writing this on my old account at eleven/twelve. A lot of things have changed, and many mistakes have been made. When I rewrite this I do hope that both the characters and plot have more depth while also keeping the same sinister undertone I originally planned. It would be greatly helpful to me if you guys could comment any mistakes and/or inconsistencies that you notice on the rewrite!

Also, should I start a new account? I never got around to doing much with this one and everything seems...scattered? I find it a little difficult to navigate what I did and what I had planned. This book is especially going to be a problem because I'd like to start on a completely fresh page. Creating a new account is something that I think would be a significant help to not only me, but new readers as well. I've found the original picture I used for the cover and plan on continuing to use it...it's the only picture I think truly represents this book and Rainfeather herself. However, having the same picture can confuse new readers on which book is which. If you guys think it would be easier to keep this account I'll be happy to regardless! It is possible to sift through and rearrange, so if not a new account possibly a username change? Please comment your thoughts down below!

So what's going to happen from here? (cause I think that's what y'all are waiting for). I'd prefer to not put out the new rewrite till I finish the outline. I want this book to be as good and as clean as I can make it, and having this outline be organized so I can go back and change things is a major help. I don't want to get half way into

writing it and realize there's a major flaw that I can't fix! I'm not sure when it'll be done, but I'll be sure to post messages on my board with updates! It's my goal to enjoy writing as well as interacting with my readers by giving you guys updates and information on progress.

In conclusion, expect a lot more activity from me in the near future. There was a time that Wattpad was like another home to me, and it's been one of the few (if not only) places I've felt comfortable sharing things about myself with complete strangers. I'm so excited to finally get back into the swing of things and reconnect with those still here!

With love,
Elaina